

Abstract

The tert-butyl ester of an aliphatic C₁-C₄-carboxylic acid is prepared by reacting the carboxylic acid with isobutene in the liquid phase in the presence of an acidic catalyst by a continuous process in which the reaction is carried out in a reactor divided into a plurality of sections, the carboxylic acid, the isoolefin and the catalyst are fed into the first section of the reactor, the reaction mixture obtained is removed from the last section of the reactor and the ester is isolated therefrom, the reaction temperature in the reactor being controlled so that it is from 10 to 40°C and is highest in the first section of the reactor.

The novel process permits the technically simple, economical and environmentally friendly preparation of tertiary butyl esters of saturated and unsaturated C₁-C₄-carboxylic acids.

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